

# MICHIGAN DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION & TREATMENT BOARD

## Board Members

- ◆ Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines (Ret.) -Chair
  - ◆ Hon. Melissa Pope ◆ Matt Wiese ◆ Dr. NiCole Buchanan
  - ◆ Rebecca Shiemke ◆ Kristen Howard ◆ Sgt. Kyla Williams
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Chairperson Hope, House Criminal Justice Committee  
Anderson House Office Building  
N-1093  
Lansing, MI 48933

June 5, 2023

RE: MDSVPTB neutral on HB 4173 and HB 4384

Dear Chairperson Hope and Criminal Justice Committee Members,

As HB 4173 and HB 4384 are before the Criminal Justice Committee, I am writing to inform you that the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board reviewed and voted to remain neutral on both bills but provide recommendations on them for your consideration.

As you know, the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (the Board) is a seven-member Governor-appointed Board with legislative responsibilities including funding sexual assault and domestic violence services for victims and providing legislative and policy recommendations on the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence. *Please note that the Board's position and rationale are solely that of the Board and do not necessarily represent the view of any individual member of the Board, nor the views of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services or any other body.* Although the Board is administratively housed within MDHHS in the Division of Victim Services, it is an independent, legislatively created body.

**HB 4173 and 4384** (Sentencing Commission): Board **Neutral** and provides recommendations.

The Board voted to remain neutral on both bills and to strongly recommend that additional dedicated victim seats be included as members of this commission. The Board requests a designated position for a representative of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board representing crime victims. Additional crime victim advocate seats should be considered from the Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and Uniting Three Fires Against Violence.

It is essential that when criminal justice reform discussions occur and when commissions such as these are created, that crime victims, and especially victims of intimate partner violence, sexual

assault, and stalking, have a seat at the table and are able to provide input on the impact reforms and legislative changes may have on crime victims. Offender accountability, graduated sanctions, and preserving existing crime victim protections through criminal sentencing are critically important.

Thank you for your time and interest in protections for crime victims. Please contact Angie Povilaitis, Staff Attorney for the Board at [povilaitisa1@michigan.gov](mailto:povilaitisa1@michigan.gov), Jess Averill, Board Policy Analyst at [Averillj@michigan.gov](mailto:Averillj@michigan.gov), or me if you have any questions or would like to further discuss these Board positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Pollard Hines".

Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines (Ret.)  
Chair, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board